

TUNISIA

P.M. - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 20, 1943.

The latest from North Africa states that the British Eighth Army has smashed through the German defenses in the neighborhood of Enfidaville; ~~the~~ <sup>at</sup> the southern bend of the Tunisian battlefront, where the battle-hardened veterans of the desert war have launched an attack at a key point. The German front all along in Tunisia ~~is~~ supported by lines of hills, with gaps here and there - low lying corridors running between elevations of rugged ground. These gaps they fortified heavily, and one of the most important is near Enfidaville.

The lull on the Tunisian front was broken last night when the Eighth Army launched a fierce attack in the moonlight. First there was a violent artillery bombardment, and then the assaulting troops and tanks lunged forward. The drive was aimed at the Enfidaville corridor, ~~and now we have the late report~~ <sup>and right now is</sup>

*pressing forward with fury*  
~~it flashes from the Algiers radio and states that the~~  
*and violence.*  
~~Eighth Army offensive has forced its way into the~~

~~Enfidaville system of defense.~~

*And,* violent air action continues, with Allied air forces shooting down twenty-four more Axis planes today. This - after yesterday's big news of the wholesale destruction of enemy aircraft. The total for <sup>the</sup> two days is now a hundred and sixteen - including seventy-two German transport planes shot down.

A statement issued today by the United States Ninth Air Force supports the belief that the Germans were trying to evacuate picked troops from the Tunisian trap. The dispatch uses the word - presume<sup>d.</sup> It is presumed that troop evacuation was the purpose of the fleet of transports that were shot up so badly. On the other hand, Berlin, in telling of the Allied air assaults, would seem to indicate that <sup>the</sup> transports were taking

reinforcements to Tunisia. The two versions can be reconciled. The German transports, flying to Tunisia, might have been carrying reinforcements, and on their way back might have been evacuating certain personnel,

*like high officers.*

*Also,* We hear of islands captured by Allied naval forces - the Kerkenna Islands. These are bits of land in the Gulf of Gabes, islands off the Tunisian east coast. There was no resistance as the Axis had evacuated the islands ~~at the time that~~ <sup>when</sup> Gabes fell, ~~and our~~  
~~forces just moved in.~~

## GUN

A dispatch from Africa gives us a new opinion on the military question of tank versus gun. Which has the edge - the attack of the charging armored fort or the defense provided by the weapon that hurls shells at it?

At Cairo today a British artillery expert stated that the gun has now established a definite superiority over the tank. The moving fort, he asserted, is virtually helpless against the latest type of anti-tank artillery. The new British two-pound shells can penetrate the armor of any German tank except *that* of the new type of monster called - "The Tiger". *which is a slow moving* ~~actually~~ land battleship, *that* can shed two-pounders. But, the British *have* six-pound shells *that* will smash *The Tiger* giant, and turn its armor into wreckage.

The British expert explained the terrific effectiveness of the German Panzer divisions at the

beginning of the war by saying that the Allies at the time simply had not developed anti-tank guns, and the Panzers could charge through as they pleased. Today, however, the gun has stopped the tank, which now plays the part <sup>that</sup> ~~of the~~ cavalry <sup>did</sup> in former wars - providing the element of speed.

As an instance of the supremacy of the gun, the British artillery technician pointed to the way Montgomery's Eighth Army broke the Nazi defenses at El Alamein and the Mareth Line. He said concentrated artillery did it, concentrations of artillery fire such as were used in the last war - and by Napoleon. So ~~it is~~ <sup>we go</sup> back to Napoleon <sup>^</sup> in today's new slant on the old problem of attack versus defense.

## SIGNALS

Every war has its crop of stories about greenhorns when they first get into action. And here is the latest from the United States Air Force in England. When Flying Fortresses raided the Nazi port of Bremen recently, a number of newcomers went along. The Fortresses got into a heavy battle with German fighters, and when they ~~got back~~ <sup>returned, one</sup> greenhorn had ~~a lot to say about their first impressions of actual sky fighting. One of them,~~ a navigator, remarked to his pilot; ~~who was an old hand at the bombing game.~~

"What amazed me, ~~said the greenhorn navigator,~~ was the fact that those enemy fighters flashed red lights to each other, signalling when they were coming in to attack."

To which the pilot growled: "Red light signals? Brother, those were twenty millimeter cannon flashes."

## POLES

Soviet Russia is reacting bitterly to the demand made by the Polish exiled government - the demand for a Red Cross investigation of Nazi charges that the Russians massacred ten thousand Polish officers near Smolensk. The Moscow retort is that the killings were done by the Nazis, and blamed on the Soviets, and that now the Polish Government in London is collaborating with the Hitler trick. There are Russian charges that General Sikorsky's Government in exile includes pro-Nazi elements, and that these are promoting the anti-Soviet propaganda spread by Nazi Germany.

## HITLER

Today birthday greetings were extended to Nazi Fuehrer Hiter, and one of the salutations was forwarded by Secretary of State Cordell Hull. The Secretary is noted for strength of speech, and here is his Happy Birthday to Hitler. He said: "Hitler and Tojo combine all the cruelties and fiendishness and inhumanity of Nero and Caligula and Atilla in one." How about Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, Mr. Secretary? Or you might add Bluebeard and ~~old Nick himself~~ *Satan!*

Another birthday greeting for Hitler is disclosed in a telegram I received this afternoon. It tells of a gift prepared by students at McKinley Junior High School at Muncie, Indiana. Seven hundred of them raised money to build a medium bomber ~~it~~ *as a* birthday gift to Hitler. Cost? - a hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars. ~~That~~ *like* Seems <sup>like</sup> a lot of money for seven hundred high school students to raise, but the facts are vouched for by



school principal Charles Hampton and Superintendent  
H.B. Allman. ~~was~~ A mighty big wad of cash, for a  
birthday present, but then nothing is too good for  
Hitler - in the way of bombs to drop on him.

## JAPANESE POLITICS

Various interpretations are being placed on the shake-up of the ~~government~~ cabinet of enemy Japan. Tojo has reshuffled his list of ministers, and in doing so has made one new appointment that attracts the particular attention of students of Far Eastern affairs. As Foreign Minister he has named Mamoru Shigemitsu. We used to hear about Shigemitsu in stories of Tokyo politics a few years ago. He was rated as a Number One advocate of Japanese cooperation with the United States and Great Britain, and was considered an opponent of the military extremists who were bringing on the war. Now he takes the place of Foreign Minister Tani, a strong supporter of the militaristic madmen.

One interpretation of the change, is this - that Tojo foresees the defeat of Germany and Italy, and their elimination from the war - leaving Japan to face the full weight of the United Nations. Tojo has

ideas that when that predicament comes, he may be able to wangle us into some kind of negotiations, and wants to have the best kind of diplomat in a position to do so - ~~a diplomat~~<sup>one</sup> who has had much experience with American and British leaders.

Still another interpretation is based on the fact that Shigemitsu was at one time Japanese Ambassador to Moscow and is well acquainted with Soviet Premier Stalin. There have been rumors from time to time that the Japs would try to bring about an end of the war between the Nazis and the Soviets, and if such a scheme were about to be launched now, Shigemitsu would be the man for it. <sup>R</sup> Such are the surmises made concerning the new shake-up in the <sup>Tokyo</sup> ~~Japanese~~ Cabinet, a shake-up that is considered to have important meanings - whatever those meanings may be.

## ROOSEVELT

Tonight in the old city of Monterey in the mountains of northern Mexico two men are conferring -- two men of contrasting personality.

One is sixty-one years old, lively and smiling. He loves to talk, loves the dramatic, and is at his happiest when he's with people, and can exert a famous gift of charm.

The other is forty-five, stern and silent, ~~military~~ -- with the discipline of a long military career. He works long hours, and rests in the seclusion of his home. He <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ better known for an unhurried deliberation than for any gift of charm. <sup>TF</sup> The two men are the Presidents of the United States and Mexico -- Roosevelt and Camacho.

President Roosevelt's trip to Mexico was covered by a prelude <sup>e of</sup> ~~ing~~ secrecy. <sup>- within the past few days</sup> First <sup>^</sup> he went on a tour of military posts in the south: - Fort Benning, Georgia; Maxwell Field in Alabama and the Marine Corps training base at Parris Island, South Carolina. At those places

the President had a close-up view of how American troops are being prepared for the stern tasks of war.

Then he went across to San Antonio, Texas, and took a train down into Mexico. ~~But~~ <sup>the</sup> first Mexican journey that any American president has made since the days of President Taft.

For ~~With President Roosevelt~~ <sup>F. D. R. it is</sup> a delayed meeting with Camacho. He was to have conferred with the Mexican President a year or so ago. The plan was for them to meet on a ship at sea somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico between Corpus Christi and Tampico. That was called off because of the entrance of the United States into the war.

Now the meeting has finally occurred -- in the Mexican city of Monterey. President Roosevelt was received down there today with stately honor and ceremony. He and President Camacho spoke addresses in which they held up the Pan American Good Neighbor Policy as a model for the rest of the world and suggested a global good neighbor policy as a basis of future peace.

# TAX

In the problem of income tax, ~~there~~<sup>it</sup> seems to be a question of seventy-five per cent ~~and~~<sup>versus</sup> fifty per cent. How much of the Nineteen Forty-two income tax shall be cancelled? From Washington we hear the Democrats are willing to compromise on fifty per cent - in other words, enact a pay-as-you-go plan that would forgive fifty per cent of Nineteen Forty-Two. Earlier in the day, that seemed to be a likely compromise, but later we have a Washington dispatch which states that the Republicans are demanding seventy-five per cent. — ~~they~~<sup>who originally were</sup> ~~They were, of course,~~ in favor of the Ruml plan, which provided for a hundred per cent cancellation- skip-a-whole-year. ~~and-get-up-to-date.~~

The thing is being fought out in a bi-partisan committee consisting of both Democrats and Republicans, a Committee charged with preparing a compromise tax bill which both parties can support.

## PRISON

Today's news brings the story of some astonishing<sup>ed</sup> prison wardens - and I should think they would be astonished! The surprise, not to say chagrin, was experienced at the Tattnall Penitentiary in Georgia. That stern fortress has been called a model prison, and also - Little Alcatraz, because it was considered to be escape-proof.<sup>R</sup> Last Friday we heard how Little Alcatraz lost some of its reputation when twenty-five convicts escaped, and since then its fame as a model prison has diminished still further. This - following an investigation which disclosed that a lot of whiskey-making was going on within the grim<sup>m</sup> grey walls. A number of stills were found, one of which was in the canning plant. ~~That still had a capacity of fifty gallons.~~

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mere trifle compared to the revelation that followed.

*H* Of the twenty-five convicts that escaped, all but eight have been recaptured, rounded up all over the Georgia countryside. And that was cause for congratulation - until one of the recaptured convicts was led through a block of cells on the fourth floor of Little Alcatraz. That's where the more desperate and dangerous of the malefactors were kept. As they were taking the returned prisoner through the cells, he swung out with one hand and hit the steel bars on a window. It was just a light tap but - lo and behold , the steel bars fell out. Those powerful and forbidding bars cracked like pieces of stick candy. And that's when the prison wardens were surprised and deeply chagrined.

*All of which*  
^  
^  
disclosed that Little Alcatraz was virtually  
^  
honeycombed with bars sawed out and replaced with soap

putty. The cuts were so cleverly concealed that the bars looked as if a giant could not have shaken them; but, a mere tap ~~would~~ knock <sup>ed</sup> them out.

It is explained that the whiskey distilling and the sawing of the bars were left over from the regime of a previous prison warden, which regime ~~was~~ certainly must have been a ~~not old time at the model~~ <sup>pleasant one for the</sup> ~~guests~~ Little Alcatraz.

## BELLS

This coming Sunday a new sound will be heard in the old land of England - the mellow pealing of church bells. And the bells will echo the cheeriest kind of message. <sup>TR</sup> Since the dark days of the fall of France, the days when invasion was expected daily, the church bells of England have been silent. The reason was - that they were to be rung only as a warning of invasion, a dread signal that the Nazis were landing. Only twice since then has the ban on the church bells been lifted - when the Eighth Army won its' smashing victory against Rommel in Egypt, and on Christmas of last year.

Now, the likelihood of a Nazi invasion is remote indeed, and today in the House of Commons Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that beginning with Eastertide, the church bells of England will be rung again on Sundays and on the other days prescribed by old tradition.

So on this coming Day of the Resurrection,  
the ringing echo across the English countryside will  
remind the people how much better the fortunes of war  
have become.

And now Hugh.